

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3521

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include peer support services at certain facilities under the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include peer support services at certain facilities under the Medicare program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Effective
5 and Empowering Recovery Services in Medicare Act of
6 2025” or the “PEERS Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AT CER-**
8 **TAIN FACILITIES UNDER THE MEDICARE**
9 **PROGRAM.**

10 (a) SERVICES.—

1 (1) INCLUSION AT COMMUNITY MENTAL
 2 HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1832(a)(2)(J) of the
 3 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395k(a)(2)(J)) is
 4 amended by striking “and intensive outpatient serv-
 5 ices” and all that follows through the period at the
 6 end and inserting “, intensive outpatient services,
 7 and peer support services (as defined in section
 8 1861(nnn)(1)) provided by a community mental
 9 health center (as defined in section
 10 1861(ff)(3)(B)).”.

11 (2) INCLUSION AS RHC AND FQHC SERVICES.—
 12 Section 1861(aa)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act
 13 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(1)(B)) is amended—

14 (A) by striking “or by a mental” and in-
 15 serting “by a mental”; and

16 (B) by inserting “or by a peer support spe-
 17 cialist (as defined in subsection (nnn)(2))” after
 18 “subsection (ll)(4)),”.

19 (b) DEFINITION.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-
 20 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the
 21 end the following new subsection:

22 “(nnn) PEER SUPPORT SERVICES AND PEER SUP-
 23 PORT SPECIALIST.—

24 “(1) PEER SUPPORT SERVICES.—The term
 25 ‘peer support services’ means emotional, informa-

1 tional, instrumental, and social and community sup-
 2 port services—

3 “(A) furnished—

4 “(i) by a Federally qualified health
 5 center, a rural health clinic, a community
 6 mental health center, or a certified commu-
 7 nity behavioral health clinic (as described
 8 in section 223 of the Protecting Access to
 9 Medicare Act of 2014), using a peer sup-
 10 port specialist; and

11 “(ii) to an individual who has been di-
 12 agnosed with a mental health condition or
 13 substance use disorder; and

14 “(B) that are designed to assist such indi-
 15 vidual in achieving recovery, integration in the
 16 community, self-empowerment, and self-deter-
 17 mination (as specified by the Secretary).

18 “(2) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST.—The term
 19 ‘peer support specialist’ means an individual who—

20 “(A) is recovering from a mental health or
 21 substance use condition; and

22 “(B) is certified as qualified to furnish
 23 peer support services under a certification proc-
 24 ess consistent with the National Practice Guide-
 25 lines for Peer Supporters and inclusive of the

1 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
 2 Administration Core Competencies for Peer
 3 Workers in Behavioral Health Settings (as es-
 4 tablished by the State in which such individual
 5 furnishes such services or under such certifi-
 6 cation process determined appropriate by the
 7 Secretary).”.

8 (c) EXCLUSION MODIFICATION.—Section 1862(a)(1)
 9 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(1)) is
 10 amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (O), by striking “and” at
 12 the end;

13 (2) in subparagraph (P), by striking the semi-
 14 colon at the end and inserting “, and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 16 paragraph:

17 “(Q) in the case of peer support services
 18 (as defined in section 1861(nnn(1))), which are
 19 not furnished by a rural health clinic, a Feder-
 20 ally qualified health center, a community men-
 21 tal health center, or a certified community be-
 22 havioral health clinic (as described in section
 23 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of
 24 2014);”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on
3 or after January 1, 2027.

